



NEW MEXICO  
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## **Environment Department Requests Public Input on Proposed State Water Quality Regulations**

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking public input on a proposal for new rules addressing state certification of federal Clean Water Act permits.

The Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau is developing a new regulation proposal for rules addressing the certification of federal permits pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. 1341]. The proposal is being developed for future submission to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission to consider through its formal public review process as new state regulations codified in 20.6.2 NMAC – Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations.

The New Mexico Water Quality Act states in Section 74-6-5.B NMSA that the WQCC "... shall adopt regulations establishing procedures for certifying federal water quality permits." Section 74-6-4.F of the Water Quality Act further states "... [t]he department of environment shall provide technical services, including certification of permits pursuant to the federal act ...." The Surface Water Quality Bureau is developing a proposal intended to assist the WQCC fulfill the §74-6-5.B requirement of the Water Quality Act.

A public discussion draft of the proposal is being made available for comment at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWQB/> under the "What's New" column.

Those who want to comment on the proposal should submit written comments at the address below by close of business July 26, 2010. Comments submitted electronically are preferred but may also be submitted by hard copy.

For more information, contact Glenn Saums at [glenn.saums@state.nm.us](mailto:glenn.saums@state.nm.us) or (505) 827-2827.

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